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PART IV.

OFFICIAL PAPERS.

ADDRESS

OF THE

DEWAN OF MYSORE

TO THE

REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY.

1st October 1906.

GENTLEMEN,

In welcoming you to this session of the Mysore Representative Assembly, and before proceeding to deliver the usual address by command of His Highness the Maharaja, allow me to take the occasion of my first meeting the members of the Assembly in the capacity of Dewan of Mysore, to say how highly I value the privilege of presiding over this gathering. You are aware that almost ever since the Assembly was started, I have been greatly interested in its growth and progress, and have watched with pleasure its development into a useful and well-recognized feature of the administration.

2. Established just twenty-five years ago, the Representative Assembly has now become a time-honoured, and one may almost say a historic, institution. That it flourishes in full vitality here, affording a model for other Native States on which to fashion their own popular assemblies, is not to be wondered at, when it is realized how well it fulfils its allotted function in the economy of the State; namely, that of enabling the Government of His Highness the Maharaja on the one hand to place before the people through representative citizens an account of the administration of the country during the past year and the measures contemplated during the coming year, and, on the other, to ascertain through the same means the wants and wishes of the people at large in regard to matters affecting the general well-being. Its own sphere of usefulness is, consequently, unaffected by any changes in the *personnel* of the Government or in the arrangements necessary for the conduct of the administration of the State.

Administrative changes.

3. The term of the appointment of Sir P. N. Krishna Murti, K.C.I.E., as Dewan having expired in March last, His Highness the Maharaja was pleased to entrust me with the high and responsible office of the Chief Minister of the State. At the same time Mr. T. Ananda Rao, B.A., and Mr. K. P. Puttana Chetty were appointed as First and Second Councillors respectively, in the place of Rajamantrapravina Mr. C. Sreenivasiengar and Rao Bahadur Mr. C. Madiah, who retired on the expiry of the term of their office.

4. The rules of business of the Council have also since been modified so as to provide for the Councillors being invested with a certain measure of administrative responsibility, the lack of which was felt to be the chief reason why the Council of August 1902, which was a purely consultative body with powers of inspection but without any executive powers, failed to fulfil the objects with which it was constituted. Under the revised rules, the members of Council, though not possessing any executive powers as such, are empowered, in their respective departments, to pass final orders in the name of Government, instead of merely recording their opinions, on all ordinary matters which are not of sufficient importance to require reference to the Dewan or to the Council. This does not of course in any way affect the personal control of His Highness the Maharaja over all the Departments of the State, all important matters being as heretofore submitted for the orders of His Highness.

The Revenue Commissioner.

5. Another important change is that relating to the position and powers of the Revenue Commissioner. This office was first constituted in the year 1902, for the more effective supervision and control of the Revenue Department. The experience of the last four years has shown that the usefulness of the office could be considerably enhanced by a larger delegation of powers to the Revenue Commissioner. The reservation to Government of certain powers which should have been assigned to the Revenue Commissioner, when the office was first created, has had the effect of restricting the usefulness of that office and has been found prejudicial to the efficient administration of the Revenue Department. For instance, the Revenue Commissioner had no jurisdiction in matters relating to the collection of revenue and the proceedings taken for its recovery. He had no jurisdiction in deciding claims to hereditary offices and the emoluments attached thereto, thereby having no adequate control over a most important class of revenue officials. With a view to remove these defects, the Land Revenue Code has recently been

amended so as to make the Revenue Commissioner the Chief Controlling Revenue Authority subject, of course, to Government. His position now more nearly corresponds to that of a Commissioner in Bombay. His decision on appeal in matters falling under the Revenue Code is final except where a question of law or usage having the force of law is involved, in which case a further appeal to Government is allowed.

6. The Revenue Commissioner is as heretofore Director of Statistics as well. Under the revised Famine Code recently issued, he is also *ex officio* the Famine Commissioner, until a whole-time Famine Commissioner is appointed, when necessary.

7. Various other powers of Government in connection with the sanction of loans under the Land Improvement Loans Regulation and under Section 194 of the Land Revenue Code, the allotment and distribution of grants for the restoration of minor tanks, remissions of land revenue, alienations of land, and such other matters, have also been delegated to him.

8. In pursuance of the same policy of decentralisation, it is under contemplation to invest certain other Heads of Departments with enhanced powers in matters relating to their charge.

9. It is His Highness' hope that the above changes will be found to be conducive to the more speedy and efficient disposal of the business of the State.

10. I may also refer here to certain other measures adopted for securing greater efficiency in the administrative machinery.

Civil Service.

11. The question of the recruitment of officers to the higher grades of the service has been exhaustively considered with the result that revised rules were issued in June last laying down the principles that should govern such recruitment, and defining the cadres of the various non-technical Departments of the State. Under these rules the Competitive Examination for the Mysore Civil Service, which was in abeyance for some years, has been revived, and certain modifications have been made in the original scheme. These changes, while ensuring the introduction to a limited extent of the pick of University men into the service, allow ample and assured prospects of promotion to those who, by merit or good work done in the lower ranks of the service, have established a claim to be admitted to the graded service. Under the new rules, officers of not only the

Revenue and Judicial, but also of the Police, Survey, Excise and Accounts departments can now aspire to the highest positions in the State.

Amildars.

12. Revised rules have been issued for the selection of eligible candidates as Amildars and Deputy Amildars. Hitherto subordinate officers in all departments, including Public Works, Medical and other branches of the service which afford no adequate training for the responsible position of Amildar or Deputy Amildar, sought to be appointed to these offices. Under the rules as now revised, candidates for these appointments will be selected only from the Revenue, Police, Judicial, Registration, Excise, Survey and Inam Departments, and the General and Revenue Secretariat. A list of candidates eligible by character and qualifications will be maintained, and appointments of Amildars and Deputy Amildars will as a rule be made from this list.

Probationers.

13. In order to define clearly the principles that will regulate selection in future for appointment as Revenue or Judicial Probationers, it has been laid down that the appointments in question are intended solely to meet the exceptional cases of persons who, besides being in themselves duly qualified for entering the public service, are also the descendants of men that have rendered distinguished service to the State in the past, and who are therefore, in His Highness' opinion, deserving of being started in the public service otherwise than through the ministerial ranks.

Other measures.

14. Other reforms recently introduced to improve the *personnel* of the service are the following :—

Revenue Department.

(1) Revised rules have been issued to regulate the appointment and promotion of ministerial officers in the Revenue Department. The chief features of the new rules are that the qualifications required for the different kinds of appointments are definitely indicated ; that clerks in the Taluk Offices are given prospects of promotion to the office establishments of Deputy and Assistant Commissioners ; that a number of appointments of Taluk Sheristedars are reserved for qualified taluk head gumastas and shekdars ; that in giving promotions preference is accorded to those who have passed the prescribed tests ; and that Heads of offices are required to maintain registers of applications for admission to the service. Similar rules in regard to subordinate appointments in other departments are under consideration.

Shekdars.

(2) An important modification has been made in regard to the recruitment to the subordinate Revenue

Executive service, *viz.*, the grade of shekdars (corresponding to Revenue Inspectors in British India). While insisting that all candidates shall be physically fit and shall have also passed the prescribed tests before being appointed as shekdars, a relaxation has been made in regard to the general educational qualifications necessary for admission to the training school in surveying and drawing. The Matriculation examination which was prescribed as a qualification for all candidates for admission to the school having been found to be too high a standard for the educationally backward classes of Mahomedans and others, in their case a pass in the Lower Secondary examination has been declared to be sufficient for admission to the training school. A similar relaxation in the case of the Police training school when it was started in 1892, has been attended with the best possible results in the way of securing for the service a fair proportion of the classes who possess a natural aptitude for executive work. The new rules also provide for the existing shekdars qualifying for admission to the new grades.

Shanbhogs or Village Accountants.

(3) A standard of qualification, comprising certain easy tests, has been prescribed for shanbhogs. It is hoped that this will shut out the very inefficient from this important office.

Travelling allowance to Taluk Officers.

(4) Orders have recently been passed sanctioning the grant of travelling allowance to Amildars and Deputy Amildars when touring within their taluks, which hitherto they were not receiving. This measure, it is expected, will tend to improve the efficiency of this important branch of the executive service, by inducing greater attention being paid to out-door work and by temptation for drawing supplies from the raiyats being removed.

15. I refrain from dwelling at more length upon the various measures already adopted as above set forth, since full information about their scope and the necessity for them is as a rule furnished in the explanatory orders either published in the Gazette from time to time, or placed in the newly established Press Room at Bangalore at the disposal of the Press generally.

Retrenchments.

16. Another matter which His Highness' Government have taken in hand is the effecting of all possible economies in the various Departments with a view to reducing the expenditure therein to the minimum compatible with efficiency. The whole financial position is now under careful review in connection with the disproportionate growth of expenditure in previous years, and a Committee, consisting of the two Members of Council,

has been appointed to consider and suggest reductions in expenditure in consultation with the heads of departments concerned. Certain departments have already been dealt with by the committee, and their proposals in regard to them are now ripe for submission to Government; other departments will be similarly taken up; and I hope to be in a position, when we meet next year, to point to material retrenchments as the result of their recommendations.

17. I may, at the same time, add that reductions have already been effected, or virtually decided upon, in certain directions; such as the abolition of the appointment of a separate Forest Settlement Officer; and the amalgamation of the office of the Examiner of Public Works Accounts with that of the Comptroller. This last is a reform which has been advocated by such competent authorities as Messrs. Hudson, Biddulph and Kiernander, as calculated to ensure efficiency and independence of audit. The change will come into effect from the 1st January next, and a local officer is being trained in the system of Public Works Accounts to work under the orders of the Comptroller. The Archæological Department having finished its labours, it has been found possible to effect considerable reductions in it, retaining only a small establishment absolutely necessary for present wants.

Finance.

18. I turn next to the general subject of the finances of the State, and here I shall, according to the usual practice, begin by summarising the salient features of the accounts of the year 1905-06.

19. The Budget Estimates of the year showed a total revenue of Rs. 227,43,000 and a total expenditure of Rs. 213,40,000, so as to leave a surplus of Rs. 14,03,000. The approximate accounts now made up, the usual details of which are given in the statements (Appendix A) placed in your hands, show a total revenue of Rs. 241,18,000 and a total expenditure of Rs. 231,26,000, leaving a surplus of Rs. 9,92,000. I would here explain that a change in the accounting of Railway transactions has affected the gross figures on both sides of the accounts in 1905-06. Hitherto only the net receipts from the Railways were being shown on the Revenue side of the estimates and accounts; but as this was not found to be a satisfactory way of accounting, the gross receipts and working expenses have in this year's accounts been shown as Revenue and expenditure respectively. Owing to the above change the revenue and Expenditure figures were both increased by Rs. 17,31,000. This source of difference being eliminated, the total revenue shows a falling off as

compared with the Budget Estimate by Rs. 3,56,000 and the expenditure shows a small increase of Rs. 55,000.

20. The chief falling off in revenue has been under the head of Land Revenue, the collections being short of the original estimate by no less than Rs. 8,46,000 owing to remissions and postponements given on account of the drought and unfavourable season of last year. The loss was counterbalanced to some extent by a general improvement under other heads, notably Forests (Rs. 2,79,000), Railways (Rs. 1,59,000) and the Cauvery Power Scheme (Rs. 75,000).

21. On the expenditure side, as I have already stated, the increase on the total was Rs. 55,000. The original estimates have been generally well maintained, except that the expenses connected with the reception of Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales were somewhat higher than the amount entered in the estimates. There has been some unavoidable delay in the settlement of these accounts, and the whole of the charges were not paid in 1905-06, some of them having had to be met in arrears during the current year.

22. The noticeable features in a comparison of the accounts of the two years 1904-05 and 1905-06 were as follows:—

In 1905-06 the land revenue collections were less by Rs. 5,60,000 owing to the unfavourable seasonal conditions. Excise revenue showed only a small increase of Rs. 26,000 owing to the same reason.

Stamp revenue somewhat revived, showing an increase of Rs. 73,000.

The Forest revenue was better by Rs. 1,55,000, of which about Rs. 88,000 represented the sale proceeds of elephants in the Khedda Department.

The Gold Mining receipts were higher by Rs. 87,000, this being due chiefly to adjustments of outstanding balances during the year.

In the Public Works receipts there was a substantial increase of Rs. 1,54,000 in consequence of the supply of water from the Bethamangala Tank to the Kolar Gold Fields having been for the first time given throughout the year.

There was an increase of Rs. 7,30,000 in the Cauvery Power Installation account, due partly to the recovery of arrears and partly to the income from the Bangalore Electric Lighting and Power Supply Scheme.

On the expenditure side there were important decreases of Rs. 8,53,000 on the capital account of the Cauvery Power Scheme and Rs. 2,14,000 in ordinary Public Works expenditure. Against these decreases, there was an increase of Rs. 3,06,000 in Railway Capital Account; of Rs. 3,00,000 in the expenditure of the various Civil Departments; and of Rs. 1,36,000 in the expenditure of the Forest Department, a lakh out of which was on account of Khedda operations during the Royal Visit.

On the whole the surplus realized in 1905-06 was very nearly 10 lakhs against the deficit of Rs. 92,000 in the preceding year.

Surplus.

23. The year 1905-06 opened with a balance of Rs. 43,49,000 to the credit of the Government. Adding to this the surplus of nearly 10 lakhs realized during the year, the closing balance at the end of the year was Rs. 53,41,000. This is what is usually referred to as the Government surplus on that date. This surplus does not necessarily represent the actual cash held in the treasuries or invested in securities, so as to be available to meet any emergent needs. It is simply the net result of the State's liabilities and assets, not including in the latter the very considerable amounts spent on reproductive works. The position at the commencement of the year 1905-06 may be thus stated :—

	Rs.	Rs.
ASSETS—		
1. Working cash balance ...	70,00,000	
2. Reserve cash and investments	72,01,000	
Total cash and investments ...		142,01,000
3. Loans to cultivators and others ...		27,17,000
4. Departmental deposits and advances		15,23,000
Total Assets ...		184,41,000
LIABILITIES—		
1. Savings Bank deposits ...	89,16,000	
2. State Life Insurance Fund ...	11,41,000	
3. Local Funds and various other State departmental deposits.	40,35,000	
Total Liabilities ...		140,92,000
SURPLUS		43,49,000

The position corresponding to the above at the beginning of the year 1898-99 was as follows :—

	Rs.
ASSETS—	
1. Working cash balance ...	61,33,000
2. Reserve cash and investments	129,03,000

			Rs.
	Total cash and investments		190,36,000
3.	Loans to cultivators and others ...		23,30,000
4.	Departmental deposits and advances		76,04,000
	Total Assets ...		289,70,000
LIABILITIES—			
1.	Savings Bank deposits ...	31,06,000	
2.	State Life Insurance Fund ...	3,23,000	
3.	Local Funds and various other State Departmental deposits.	95,88,000	
4.	Mysore Railway Loan of 1882 ...	20,00,000	
	Total Liabilities ..		150,17,000
SURPLUS			139,53,000

24. It will be seen from a comparison of the figures in the above tables that what has taken place in the seven years from 1898-99 to 1904-05 is, that the State's liabilities have considerably increased under Savings Bank deposits, and perceptibly under the Insurance Fund, while simultaneously the cash and invested reserves have been considerably reduced. The former result is due to the acceptance of Savings Bank deposits without limit, and the expansion of business under the Insurance rules. The latter, that is, the depletion of the reserves, is due to the fact that in these years the Government have spent a large part of their accumulated surplus on such works as—the Cauvery Power Installation Scheme, Marikanave Reservoir, the Bethamangala Water-supply project, and the reconstruction of the Mysore Palace. The question, to what extent Savings Bank deposits should be allowed to accumulate, has been considered, and I shall presently speak of the decision come to. Meanwhile, in view chiefly of the heavy liabilities incurred since 1897-98 and the considerable reduction in the cash and invested reserves, the question of how best to build up the depleted reserve and to provide funds for productive and protective works is engaging the attention of Government.

Budget for 1906-07.

25. This brings me to the consideration of the figures of the Budget Estimates of 1906-07. (Appendix B.) These estimates provide for a total revenue of Rs. 247,92,000 and a total expenditure of Rs. 247,72,000, closing with a small surplus of Rs. 20,000 as against the realized surplus of about 10 lakhs in the preceding year. This falling off in 1906-07 is apparent and not real, since the total expenditure of 247 lakhs odd includes a sum of Rs. 14,35,000 being the net earnings from the Cauvery Power Scheme set apart towards strengthening the cash reserve, and a further sum of 2 lakhs provided for famine relief, the seasonal conditions

appearing unfavourable when the budget was framed. Thus the real surplus revenue in the estimates for 1906-07 compared with the similar figures in past years is Rs. 16,55,000. We have been able to secure this result chiefly because the Cauvery Installation revenue is now at its highest—the charge to the companies being now made at £24 and £18 respectively per Horse Power, while in another two or three years the charge will be reduced to a uniform rate of £10 per Horse Power.

26. It has been observed that to some extent the variations in the revenue surplus of Mysore from year to year are due to the mixing up of important capital transactions connected with commercial services with the regular service charges of Government. To prevent any misapprehension, I have had prepared a statement of accounts and estimates in a special form which gives the net figures of revenue and expenditure by services for the last three years and the budget estimate of the current year. (Appendix C.) The statement shows at a glance the figures under the various departments divided under the several services. For the purposes of sound financial arrangements, there should not only be an equilibrium between the ordinary revenue received from rent and taxation and the normal expenses on the Public Service departments, but there should be in the total account a substantial surplus to provide, as far as may be necessary, for interest and sinking fund on Railway debt, if any should be incurred in future, for Famine Insurance, and for the average annual liability for heavy special expenditure occurring at irregular intervals.

27. The Mysore State has a special asset in the mining revenue, and although present indications are favourable to its continuance for years to come, it is difficult to say how long this source will be available. But for purposes of a sound financial arrangement, it is desirable, if possible, not to depend upon these receipts for the normal expenses of the administration. If the item of "Mining Royalty" be removed from the category of principal heads of revenue, the charges connected with the Gold Fields should also be removed from the expenditure side, and the real position will then be clearly understood. A return of the true net income from the Gold Fields is under preparation.

28. The statement of net revenue and expenditure shows satisfactory progress in placing the finances on a sound footing. The revenue heads are expected to come

up to the estimates in the current year, while the expenditure is kept well in hand.

29. As I said before, the whole financial situation is now under careful review, and I hope next year to be able to tell you what steps have been taken or are contemplated to further strengthen our financial position.

Savings Banks.

30. Prior to the year 1899 Savings Bank deposits were received in the Government Treasuries up to a maximum limit of Rs. 5,000 on each individual account. In August of that year it was announced that until further orders deposits would be received in the Savings Banks without any limitation as to amount. This withdrawal of all limit to the deposits led to their steady increase, and they rose from 38 lakhs on the 30th June 1899 to over 95 lakhs on the 31st December 1905. There is evidently serious risk in permitting such heavy increases in liabilities at call; and as the final outcome of the discussion on the subject, a Government Notification was recently issued on the 15th of August 1906, in which it was announced that in future a depositor should not be allowed to deposit more than Rs. 2,000 in any one financial year, and that the total amount that a depositor may have at his credit at any time must not exceed Rs. 5,000.

31. With regard to existing accounts it was also notified that with effect from 1st October 1906, amounts in deposit in excess of Rs. 5,000 should bear interest at 2 per cent, instead of 3½ per cent as heretofore. When the above decision was arrived at, it was of course realized that Government should be prepared to meet a maximum withdrawal from the Savings Banks of all excess over Rs. 5,000 in individual accounts. The number of accounts having balances in excess of Rs. 5,000 on the 30th June 1906 was 417, and the total deposit at credit of the accounts was about 49 lakhs. Accordingly the maximum amount of withdrawals for which the Government had to be prepared was about 28 lakhs. This amount would in the ordinary course have been met by selling the Government of India Securities held by the State.

The four per cent loan.

32. While this subject of alteration in the Savings Bank rules was under consideration, the question of setting up a Third Installation of the Cauvery Power Scheme came up before Government and pressed for a decision. The scheme was considered on its merits as one of productive expenditure. But in view of the heavy liabilties for Savings Bank deposits, it was not considered possible to find the money out of the rather low reserve the

Government had at their disposal, and it was deemed expedient to obtain the required funds by means of a loan.

33. Instead of simultaneously discharging the Savings Bank debt on the one hand by the sale of Government securities, and on the other hand calling for tenders for a new loan, it was considered expedient to offer the loan in the first instance to Savings Bank depositors, who would otherwise decide to withdraw their deposits under the new rules. Accordingly, by the Notification of 15th August 1906, option was given to Savings Bank depositors having balances in excess of Rs. 5,000 to receive Promissory Notes of the New Loan in lieu of withdrawing such excess in cash. The amount of the loan was fixed at 20 lahks, and the tenderers were permitted to exercise the option by the 15th September.

34. Of the 417 depositors with balances in excess of Rs. 5,000 each, 185 depositors having a total deposit of Rs. 28,31,478 have exercised the option, and have applied for Rs. 21,62,200 on account of the new loan; Rs. 17,86,100 out of the tenders have been accepted, and orders will soon be passed for the issue of Promissory Notes and the necessary adjustment in the Savings Bank accounts. The remaining amounts of the tenders (*viz.*, Rs. 3,76,100) are under investigation, as the tenders are not strictly in accordance with the terms of the Government Notification, but a considerable portion of these will probably be accepted.

Ways and Means.

35. I shall close this portion of my address with a statement of the financial Ways and Means of the year. As already stated, it is expected that, when the accounts of the year 1905-06 are finally closed, the Revenue surplus realized will be found to be about Rs. 9,92,000. The Savings Banks deposits in the year increased by Rs. 6,21,832, giving a total increase in the cash balances on these two accounts of Rs. 16,13,832. The actual opening balance in the year was Rs. 77,63,259 and the closing balance Rs. 99,00,653. The balances throughout the year were much in excess of the working balances, but, owing to the high price of Government of India Securities, no investments could be made in the year. A new $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent loan of $4\frac{1}{2}$ crores was issued by the Government of India on the 31st July 1906; the Mysore State tendered for 28 lakhs, the whole of which has been accepted at an average rate of Rs. 97-$6\frac{1}{7}$ as. per cent. The State already holds Government of India Securities of the nominal value of Rs. 64,87,700, and of the 28 lakhs now purchased Rs. 25,12,300 will be transferred to the State account

making a total of 90 lakhs. Even after this investment, we expect to close the current year with a closing cash balance of Rs. 77,69,000 after providing for all ordinary requirements. The only requirements that have not been specially provided for in the estimates are the withdrawals in cash of Savings Bank deposits and the Expenditure on the proposed Third Installation of the Cauvery Power Scheme. This was because orders had not issued regarding the new Savings Bank rules at the time the Budget Estimates of 1906-07 were framed, and the Third Installation has not yet been formally sanctioned.

State Life Insurance.

36. During the year, 1,334 proposals were dealt with, and 1,036 effective policies were issued, assuring a bonus of Rs. 4,46,493 for a monthly premium of Rs. 1,538. The balance to the credit of the fund on the 30th June 1906 was Rs. 13,69,587. It is satisfactory to note that the total mortality among the insured, which was steadily on the increase from 1898-99 when plague first appeared in the Mysore State, decreased during the year 1905-06, the number of deaths reported among the insured being only 46 as against 76 in the previous year.

Seasonal conditions.

37. The year that has passed was one of considerable anxiety. The average rainfall was almost the lowest on record since 1870, being only 27½ inches against 37 inches, the average for the past 35 years. It was ill-timed and ill-distributed, so that both the south-west and the north-east monsoons practically failed. Almost everywhere the crops suffered considerably, and in some areas they completely failed. The estimated outturn of the staple food grains, paddy and ragi, for the whole State was only 8 annas and 6 annas respectively—a normal crop being taken as 16 annas. In the districts of Kolar, Tumkur and Chitaldrug, and in parts of Shimoga, where the drought was most severe, the average outturn was only about 5 annas, and in some areas it was as low as 2 annas. Following, as this did, on a year of deficient rainfall and poor harvests, there was a rapid rise in the prices of food grains. Rice of very ordinary quality was in some places sold at 7 seers a rupee, the average rate being over 10 seers. Ragi, the staple food of the ordinary raiyats and the labouring classes, was sold in some parts at 11 and 12 seers per rupee, the average rate being generally over 20 seers. What with the high prices of food grains and the want of sufficient employment, the condition of the poorer classes was such as to cause the gravest concern. The usual early rains were anxiously looked for, but they also failed and the

outlook became more and more gloomy. A further disquieting feature was that the supply of drinking water for men and cattle was running short. The condition of cattle was fast deteriorating for want of fodder, and the mortality increased.

38. In the meantime, the Government had taken all possible precautionary measures to be prepared to meet a period of distress. An effective system of intelligence being one of the most important preparations against famine, the Government had early in the year directed that a special inspection of the crops in all villages throughout the State should be conducted, and the results reported to Government, so that they might be in possession of accurate information as to the extent of the failure of crops in different localities. The Deputy Commissioners were required to submit special season reports every ten days, and they and their Assistants were instructed to frequently tour about in their charges and keep themselves in touch with the condition of affairs in every locality. One of the Councillors, and later the Revenue Commissioner, toured in the parts that were most affected.

Measures of Relief.

39. On the recommendations of the District Officers the following measures of relief were adopted :—

(1) To meet the scarcity of fodder for cattle, some of the State Forests and plantations and the Amrut Mahal Kavals (which are pasture lands specially set apart for Government cattle) were thrown open for free grazing of the village cattle, and grass and leaves were allowed to be cut and removed free of charge. Permission was also freely given to cut and remove leaves of date trees in Government date groves to be used for fodder.

(2) To meet the difficulty for water for men and cattle, which was keenly felt in many places, a sum of Rs. 42,000 was sanctioned for sinking wells,—Rs. 19,000 from District Funds and Rs. 23,000 from Local Funds General.

(3) With a view to afford employment to the poorer classes, a large number of ordinary public works was started in the affected parts. A sum of Rs. 14,000 was sanctioned for opening test works, Rs. 29,500 for loans to agriculturists for sinking irrigation wells, Rs. 15,500 for loans for executing other works of land improvement; and in addition to the grant of one lakh of rupees from the Public Works Budget for the restoration of minor tanks, a sum of Rs. 10,000 was sanctioned in the Kolar District for the same purpose.

(4) Under the rules in force, the raiyats have to do the earthwork necessary for the maintenance or restoration of minor tanks, the Government doing the stone and masonry work. But in the circumstances of last year, this rule was relaxed, and even the earthwork of several minor tanks was done at Government cost. In other cases, the cost of the earthwork was advanced to the raiyats to be repaid by them in easy instalments. For this purpose a sum of Rs. 13,000 was sanctioned. The concession was greatly appreciated as it not only provided timely labour for the poorer classes, but was also useful in permanently improving the condition of their tanks.

(5) The above measures, however, were not such as to reach the raiyats of small means whose resources are soon exhausted, but who cannot be expected to leave their homes and go to work for wages. The relief that people of this class require consists of help to provide fodder for their cattle, and in cases where their cattle have died money for buying new stock, loans for the purchase of seed grain, and in extreme cases money for the support of themselves and their families. A sum of Rs. 43,150 was sanctioned for the grant of loans to this class of people, for these purposes.

(6) Besides the above it was found necessary in the districts of Kolar, Tumkur, Chitaldrug and parts of Shimoga and Kadur to show substantial concessions in the matter of the payment of assessment. You are aware that the system of settlement in Mysore does not contemplate the granting of remissions for partial or total failure of crops, but the circumstances of the year were so exceptional that it was decided to remit in the areas mentioned above half the wet assessment on lands on which no crop was raised, or the crop outturn fell short of 4 annas. In these areas the grazing fees were also entirely remitted. Besides this, the Deputy Commissioners of the Tumkur, Chitaldrug, Shimoga and Kadur Districts were authorised to postpone the collection of the last two instalments of dry assessment in selected localities. Altogether a sum of Rs. 4,54,112 was wholly remitted, and the collection of another sum of Rs. 1,32,333 was ordered to be postponed.

40. But no measures of relief that might possibly be adopted by Government could, as long as the rains held off, inspire hope in the raiyat or bring much comfort to his heart. The months of May, June, and nearly the whole of July passed, and yet there was no rain worth mentioning. Meanwhile prices went up higher and higher. In the beginning of July last, the prices were higher than

at any time before during the year. There was a perceptible deepening of the distress among the poorer classes of the people. In the Nanjangud Taluk it was found actually necessary to start relief works. But at last, when anxiety had risen to the pitch of despair, the welcome rains set in and by their copiousness made up for the previous deficiency. Many of our tanks have filled to over-flowing, and in a few cases the bunds have even breached. Now all our apprehensions have been happily removed, and there is every hope that the outturn of crop will be a normal one.

Agriculture.

41. Owing to the unfavourable seasons there was a decrease of 32,592 acres in the area of land under occupancy.

42. The continued depreciation in coffee and the growing demand for rubber have induced planters and others to devote considerable attention to the cultivation of rubber in the State. On behalf of Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co., Mr. Strickland obtained about 500 acres of land for rubber cultivation in selected localities in the Shimoga and Kadur Districts in 1904, and since then he has been followed by other applicants. Nearly two thousand acres have in all been given out for rubber cultivation. The conditions imposed in these cases were only tentative, and some of them (especially that in regard to the reservation of trees to Government and the prohibition to fell them except in so far as the removal of undergrowth might be required for *bona fide* purposes of cultivation), were found by experience to be inconvenient and even irksome to planters and detrimental to the interests of Government. With a view to elicit the views of all persons interested in the rubber industry, a conference was held at Bangalore in August last, and as a result thereof the rules have been modified and the conditions better defined, so that while on the one side the action of the planter will be less hampered, on the other, Government interests will be adequately protected. The rules apply, of course, to both Native and European planters.

43. The work in connection with the Marikanave Reservoir has so far progressed that water can now be supplied for irrigation, and the Government have under consideration the best method of regulating the distribution of water and other allied questions. Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co. have already taken up 5,000 acres under the right channel for sugar-cane cultivation on improved methods. Five hundred acres have been given to Mahratta workmen to encourage the settlement of that class of labourers in

the country. In all 14,575 acres are already under occupation, and 11,923 acres more will become available for cultivation.

Veterinary Aid.

44. An Inspector of Cattle Diseases has been appointed, whose duties are to investigate the nature of epidemic diseases among cattle, to visit localities where such diseases are prevalent and to adopt measures for checking their ravages. He will also devote his attention to improve veterinary knowledge in rural parts by organizing and encouraging local effort, and by instructing the rural cattle-doctors and large cattle owners in a scientific diagnosis of cattle diseases and a proper application of easily available indigenous drugs. Government have also under consideration a simple and practical scheme for improving the condition of cattle generally and for affording prompt veterinary aid, particularly when epidemics prevail.

Revenue and Agricultural Gazette.

45. It is under contemplation to issue a fortnightly Gazette in the vernacular, called the Revenue and Agricultural Gazette, under the immediate supervision of the Revenue Commissioner. It is intended to convey to the village officers and the people generally, information in matters relating to land revenue, appeals in revenue cases, important orders relating to communal pasture lands, the outbreak of cattle diseases and their treatment, agricultural experiments, co-operative societies, instructions on sanitary matters, and such other information as will have a value for the raiyat and the village officer.

Agricultural Chemist.

46. The Experimental Farm at Hebbal was kept up, and Laboratory experiments and analyses were carried on as usual, the more noteworthy of them being experiments in nitrogen-fixing Bacteria, and pot-culture tests regarding the use of bonemeal, in which, however, definite results have not as yet been obtained.

Agricultural Banks.

47. In 1905-06 a sum of Rs. 21,096 was advanced on account of working expenses of the estates mortgaged to the late Coffee Bank at Saklespur. The amount repaid by the several Agricultural Banks was about a lakh, and there is still a heavy balance of 13 lakhs, including interest, to be recovered. During the year the Government loan was ordered to be withdrawn from 11 banks, which were found to be badly managed and incapable of improvement. With a view to safeguard the interests of Government on the one hand, and afford the members the benefit of official guidance and support, on the other, it has been decided to entrust the supervision of the banks

to the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, who has, for this purpose, been appointed Inspector of Agricultural Banks as well in subordination to the Revenue Commissioner.

48. Before I leave the question of Agricultural Banks, you will permit me to say that there is much to be learnt from the facts and figures which have just been presented to you. The history of these Banks is typical of the evils resulting from misplaced philanthropy on the one hand and the defects of national character on the other. From time to time statements have been made in the press that the Government of His Highness the Maharaja have done little or nothing to encourage local industries and commercial enterprises. These statements have apparently been made upon inadequate information and imperfect knowledge of what has been done in the past. If you turn to the Dasara Addresses of previous years you will find that almost from the time of the Rendition, encouragement in the way of subsidies and special concessions was being given to persons who wished to start iron works, cotton mills, weaving factories and so forth. One of the latest instances of the State's solicitude for promoting the welfare of the people was the advancing of very large sums of money amounting to nearly 17 lakhs for helping the agricultural industry and particularly the coffee industry carried on by Native planters. But in the present condition of Native society this form of help has not proved the blessing which it was expected to be. The advances which were so liberally made and so eagerly taken up have proved to be a source of loss to the State on the one hand, and of utter demoralisation to the people on the other, and have taken away all spirit of self help from the Native coffee planters and made their position worse than before. The European coffee planters who have had no such adventitious help have somehow managed to hold their own in spite of adverse seasons and are now turning their attention to new planting industries. And what is the cause of this well-meant action of the Government failing to achieve the object with which it was taken? It is to my mind nothing short of the absence in us of a spirit of self reliance, mutual trust, and co-operation for objects of common good, and until this defect is removed, Government may place the whole of their resources at the disposal of the people without its resulting in much practical and permanent good to them or benefit to the State. It is here that you, gentlemen, may bring your intelligence and public spirit to bear in seconding the efforts of Government in

promoting the well-being of the people. If this spirit of mutual trust, co-operation and self-sacrifice, which is the true cause of the success of the Agricultural Banks in European countries, had animated the leaders of the people in the rural tracts in Mysore, the history of these Banks would have been more encouraging than it has been. But we have all to learn wisdom by experience.

Co-operative societies.

49. I will now turn from the subject of these Agricultural Banks to the new direction in which Government have recently moved in regard to promoting co-operative effort. The co-operative societies started on the model adopted in British India after careful consideration are still in their infancy in Mysore but promise better results than the Agricultural Banks, both as an educative agency and as promoting the material well-being of the raiyats and of the industrial classes.

50. Seven co-operative societies, all with limited liability, have so far been registered, namely, at Bangalore City, Holé-Narsipur, Mysore City, Koppa, Hiriyur, Kotta (Sira Taluk) and Sira.

51. The society at Bangalore is a purely urban society, and the one at Holé-Narsipur is mainly intended for the benefit of the weavers of that Taluk. The bank at Kotta is a grain bank, in which the capital subscribed by the members and the loans issued are in the shape of grain. The society at Koppa aims at introducing improved methods of cultivation, and has shown much activity in growing sugar-cane by improved methods. The remaining societies are intended chiefly for the benefit of the agriculturists and artizans of the taluks concerned. All the societies are still in the early stages of development.

Revision Settlement.

52. Re-survey operations were commenced in the State in the year 1901.

53. Revision Settlement was introduced last year into the Challakere Taluk and the late Budihal Taluk, now part of the Chiknaikanhalli Taluk. The increase in the assessment in these taluks has been extremely moderate, being only 12 per cent in the former and as low as 4 per cent in the latter. The smallness of the increase in the latter was due to the special character of the tract, in which both wet and dry cultivation, especially the former, remains more or less stationary. The tract affords special facilities for garden cultivation, but in accordance with the principles adopted in the rules of 1902 the garden assessment has generally been reduced.

54. Re-survey operations have been completed in respect of the taluks of Channagiri, Bangalore, Molakal-

muru, Sorab and the Sringeri Jahgir. In the case of Channagiri, Bangalore and Molakalmuru, Government hope to be able to announce the new rates during the ensuing cold weather.

55. As regards the Sorab Taluk and the Sringeri Jahgir, the question is more or less intimately connected with that of the abolition or retention of the *halat* or duty on areca-nut. The condition of the areca-nut garden owners is reported to have steadily declined owing to bad seasons, the spread of the disease called *kole-roga*, the heaviness of the garden assessment, and the evils incidental to a tax like the *halat*. That the garden owners stand in need of some relief is admitted on all hands, but the question is in what shape and to what extent this relief should be given. I may mention that opinion is practically unanimous about the desirability of doing away with the *halat*, and that the final settlement of the question is retarded chiefly by considerations connected with the finances of the State. Even apart from the *halat*, it is probable that the malnad raiyat needs some relief by way of reduction in the garden assessment. To investigate the matter in all its bearings, Government have decided to place Colonel Grant on special duty with effect from the beginning of January next to carefully study the condition of the malnad tract, so that before he leaves the Mysore Service in July next Government may have the benefit of his experience in the settlement of this difficult question.

Forests.

56. The area of the State Forests was increased during the year by the addition of 14 blocks with an extent of 157½ square miles. Seven blocks with an aggregate area of about 50 square miles were newly notified for settlement, and one block with an area of a little more than 2 square miles was notified as partially reserved. Judged by its financial results, the year was a prosperous one. The revenue from timber extracted by departmental agency amounted to Rs. 3,65,805; and sandalwood contributed Rs. 12,64,790. The net revenue amounted to Rs. 13,26,639, which is the largest on record. The demand for local timber has steadily risen, timber worth Rs. 1,54,907 having been supplied to the Kolar Gold Fields alone. To meet this demand the areas that were hitherto untapped are being worked, and you may rest assured that, while on the one hand our Forest resources are being properly exploited, their scientific conservation is not neglected on the other.

57. The system of issuing licenses through middlemen to facilitate the sale and removal of forest produce, which has been tried in several parts of the State, and found to

promote both public and departmental convenience, has been introduced tentatively, for two years throughout the State.

58. In connection with the Royal Visit, Khedda operations were organized at an expenditure of Rs. 1,05,000 and resulted in the capture of 87 elephants. Of these, 58 were sold for Rs. 79,815; 21 of the value of Rs. 34,400 were otherwise disposed of; and 8 died.

59. Government have deputed two students with State scholarships for the study of Forestry at the Oxford University for a term of three years. They have also deputed five students to the Forest College at Dehra Dun.

Public Works.

60. The total expenditure incurred on Public Works amounted to Rs. 50,81,223, of which Rs. 15,50,984 was on Irrigation Works; Rs. 31,64,888 on Civil Works; Rs. 20,873 on Military Works; and Rs. 3,44,478 on the Cauvery Power Scheme.

Irrigation.

61. Good progress was made on the Marikanave project, the outlay during the year being Rs. 3,72,000. The dam was raised to the full sanctioned height, *viz.*, R. L. 142·00. The channel on the left bank was practically completed for the first 15 miles, and the greater portion of the earthwork was completed for another seven miles. The right channel was practically completed for the first 11 miles. Water was let down the left channel up to the 7th mile on the 11th June, and down the right channel up to the 11th mile on the 30th June. Water in the Reservoir rose to a height of R. L. 86·60 during the year.

62. Good progress was also made on other irrigation works, the more important of which were—

The restoration of the Ramasagara, Mudvadi and Chendandur tanks in the Kolar District; the construction of new tanks at Kalhalli and Ranikere in the Chitaldrug District; the improvement of the Devaraya Channel in the Mysore District, and of the north channel from the Sriramadevar dam in the Hassan District.

63. Works that were practically completed during the year were—

The restoration of the Somambudhi and Chillapalli tanks in the Kolar District; and of the Agrahara tank in the Tumkur District; and the construction of a new tank at Chikmadure in the Chitaldrug District.

64. Seven projects for Famine Protective Works, estimated to cost in the aggregate Rs. 10,24,746, were sanctioned during the year. These were the construction of tanks—

(1) on the Maralvadi stream in the Kankanhalli Taluk,
(2) at Gabbur in the Nelamangala Taluk,
(3) at Kamasandra in the Bowringpet Taluk,
(4) at Rajamakalhalli, also in the Bowringpet Taluk,
(5) at Singadahalli in the Chitaldrug Taluk,
(6) at Donehalli in the Jagalur Taluk, and
(7) at Vedasamudra in the Seringapatam Taluk.

The construction of a new tank at Sowlunga in the Honnali Taluk, for which an estimate of Rs. 1,14,027 was sanctioned in January 1905, was started as an ordinary work during the year by departmental agency, and fairly good progress has been made.

Minor Tanks.

65. As in the previous year, a grant of one lakh was allotted for the restoration of minor tanks under the control of the Revenue Department, and the operations during the year may be considered on the whole to have been fairly satisfactory.

Tank Maps and Registers.

66. Tank Registers were prepared in the rough for seven series, one in the Vedavati, three in the Palar and three in the Cauvery basins. Serial maps were prepared for 22 series; and an index map was prepared for the whole State. Briefly, out of the 30 series into which the State has been divided, 19 series have been dealt with more or less completely, and the mapping work was finished for the whole of the 30 series.

67. You will be interested to learn that investigations are in progress under a special establishment for the construction of a large reservoir on the Cauvery River.

Civil Works and Civil Buildings.

68. Under "Civil Buildings" the principal works in progress during the year were—improvements and additions to the Victoria Hospital; the construction of the Sir Sheshadri Iyer Memorial Hall; the new Municipal School at Bangalore; the buildings for the Experimental Agricultural Farm; the additional buildings to the Bacteriological and Agricultural Laboratories at Bangalore; the construction of the Palace; the new Hospital and Medical Officer's Quarters at the Kolar Gold Fields; and the Sandal kotis at Chikmagalur and Tarikere. The First and Second Maharaja-Kumaris' Mansions at Mysore and

the new Durbar Hall at the Fern Hill Palace at Ootacamund—which are being constructed from Palace funds—were also under progress.

Communications.

69. Under "Communications," the following works were in progress—the opening out of the remaining section of the Saklespur-Arehalli road in the Hassan District; the extension of the Avinhalli-Karur road in the Shimoga District; the widening of the Kotigehar-Kalasa road in the Kadur District; and improvements to the Shimoga-Mangalore road, and the Bisle ghat road.

70. The bridge over the Lokapavani river at Honnakere on the French Rocks Station-Nelligere road was completed; and the bridges over the Hemavati river at Anjur on the Saklespur-Mudgere road, and over the Bhadra river at Magundi on the Kotigehar-Balehonnur road, were nearly completed. The remaining section of the Hanbal-Devarunda road was opened out completely during the year. 1,934 miles of Provincial and 3,495 miles of District Fund roads were maintained during the year at an average mileage rate of Rs. 128.

Miscellaneous Public Improvements.

71. Under the head "Miscellaneous Public Improvements", the more important works in progress were—widening the main drain in the Bangalore City, and forming roads and constructing drains in its new extensions; formation of the Curzon Park at Mysore; and the Memorial works of His Highness the late Maharaja at Seringapatam and at Calcutta.

Cauvery Power Scheme.

72. Under the Cauvery Power Scheme there were no new works in hand during the year; but as I have already mentioned, it is under contemplation to have a third Installation for an additional 2,000 H.P. This is intended to enable Government to have the first call on all the power required for Government purposes, such as the lighting of the Bangalore and Mysore Cities, the Belagola water-works, etc. The gross revenue realized during the year from the Cauvery Power Scheme was Rs. 16,34,572; the working expenses amounted to Rs. 2,41,289; and the net income was Rs. 13,93,283. Had it not been for the shortage of water-supply in the river during March, April, May and June 1906, a further sum of about Rs. 2,32,000 would have been realized.

Railways.

73. The total net earnings on the open lines of Railway owned by the State aggregated Rs. 10,99,143 against Rs. 8,07,102 in the previous year. The capital outlay up to the end of June 1906 being Rs. 232,40,495, the percentage of net earnings to capital outlay was 4·73 against

4·59 in 1904-05. The percentages for the several lines work out as follows:—

	1904-05.	1905-06.
Mysore-Harihar ...	... 3·35	4·79
Bangalore-Hindupur	... 5·75	6·70
Mysore-Nanjangud ...	... 2·15	3·43
Birur-Shimoga ...	... 1·03	1·71
Kolar Gold Fields Railway	... 6·39	6·46

The percentage of working expenses to gross earnings was 58·22 during the year as compared with 65·80 in 1904-05.

Bangalore-Chikballapur Light Railway.

74. The question of a guarantee by the Government on the capital cost of the construction of this line was under consideration. You may remember that this is the first co-operative effort by a purely indigenous agency in embarking on a commercial undertaking on a large scale, and you will be glad to hear that a guarantee of 4 per cent has since been provisionally sanctioned.

Steam Tramway from Shimoga to Kumsi.

75. The Madras-Mysore Mining Syndicate have applied for a concession to construct and work a steam tramway to facilitate the transport of manganese ore from the mines at Kumsi to the Shimoga Railway Station. The Government have introduced a Tramways Regulation in the State, and the question of granting the concession asked for under this Regulation is now engaging their attention.

Dharmapuri-Palkodu-Bangalore Light Railway.

76. The Madras Railway Company were authorised by the Railway Board to carry out a traffic survey of this narrow gauge line, and the Government of His Highness the Maharaja have agreed to it.

Local Funds.

77. The income under Local Funds consists chiefly of the one anna local cess collected on several items of revenue. Seventy-six per cent of the local cess on land revenue is credited towards the funds of the District Board of the district in which the revenue is collected, and is expended within the district, through the agency of the District and Taluk Boards and Unions. The balance of 24 per cent of the local cess on land revenue, together with 33 per cent of the local cess on Abkari and other items of revenue, goes to a fund called the Village School Fund, which is administered by the Education Department, and is spent entirely on primary education. The remaining 67 per cent of the local cess on Abkari and other items of revenue exclusive of land revenue, is credited towards what are called Local Funds General, which are administered by Government and are spent anywhere in the State, irrespective of the district from which the cess was collected. Local Funds General are spent mostly on roads, wells and

sanitary works, and grants are also made from these funds to such institutions as the Engineering School at Mysore, Industrial Schools throughout the State and the indigenous hospital at Mysore. With this explanation, you will be able better to understand the figures showing receipts and expenditure, which I now proceed to give.

District Funds.

78. The receipts under District Funds amounted to Rs. 7,31,590; the opening balance was Rs. 4,09,892. Out of the total of Rs. 11,41,482, the expenditure under all heads amounted to Rs. 8,02,620. Of this, Rs. 6,10,837 was spent on public works, Rs. 38,118 on sanitation, Rs. 73,065 on medical aid, and Rs. 23,713 on accommodation for travellers.

Local Funds General.

79. The receipts under Local Funds General amounted to Rs. 1,64,261; the opening balance was Rs. 1,62,313. Out of the total of Rs. 3,26,574, the actual expenditure amounted to Rs. 2,34,989. Of this, the amounts spent on public works executed by the Public Works Department, and the contributions made for sinking wells and executing sanitary works through the Revenue agency, came to Rs. 1,62,929. Of the other items of expenditure the chief were a sum of Rs. 50,518 spent on Industrial Schools; Rs. 7,572 on the Engineering School; Rs. 2,824 on the Indigenous Hospital at Mysore; and Rs. 2,482 towards the pay of Sericultural Inspectors. The figures given above include the sums of Rs. 19,000 and Rs. 23,000, respectively, to which I have already alluded as having been sanctioned from District Funds and Local Funds General, for relieving the distress that existed in several parts on account of the want of drinking water during the season of drought.

80. Under the District Boards three more Village Unions were formed during the year. The question of forming some more of the bigger villages into Unions so as to enable the District Boards to give greater attention to their sanitation, water-supply and other conveniences, is under consideration.

Municipal Funds.

81. The number of Municipalities in the State was 87, the same as in the last year. The Draft Municipal Regulation, which has been under consideration for some time, has just been approved by the Government of India and will soon be promulgated with the sanction of His Highness the Maharaja. When the new Regulation comes into force, it may be expected that the efficiency of the Municipal Boards will be greatly increased. The opening balance at the credit of the Municipalities was Rs. 3,03,518. The receipts during the year were Rs. 8,62,599, making a

total of Rs. 11,71,117. The expenditure incurred was Rs. 7,61,948, of which Rs. 1,74,004 was on conservancy and sanitation; Rs. 12,983 on the registration of births and deaths; Rs. 56,492 on lighting; Rs. 30,841 on water-supply; Rs. 43,034 on the construction and repairs of drains; Rs. 1,58,537 on roads and other public works; Rs. 25,484 on dispensaries, Hindu and Unani Vaidyasalas, and midwives; and Rs. 36,495 on education.

Mysore City Improvements.

82. The Mysore City Improvement Trust Board expended a sum of Rs. 3,74,415 on various works of improvement. The underground drainage or pipe system for the whole town has been completed during the year. A large septic tank near the Idga Extension and a combined septic tank and intermittent streaming filter on the Doddapetta Road were constructed to purify the sewage tapped in the northern portions of the City before issuing it for cultivation. A Stoddart's Aerobic Filter was also constructed at the Jalapuri Extension to deal with the drainage of that area. The new Doddaholagere was completely formed and drained during the year, and 640 families displaced in old Doddaholagere were housed therein. People of the Jalagar, Budi Budike, and Mante Holayar castes have been located in portions of the New Idga Extension in separate blocks suitably formed and drained. An estimate for Rs. 54,490 for the further enlargement of this extension was sanctioned during the year.

Plague.

83. It is gratifying to note that the Mysore City remained practically free from plague during the year, there being only 7 attacks and 5 deaths. This satisfactory result must, to a great extent, be attributed to the sanitary improvements effected by the Trust Board. The expenditure incurred in connection with the rat killing scheme introduced in July 1905 was Rs. 2,670 approximately, the number of rats killed being 23,000. A campaign against rats, similar to that carried on in the Mysore City, has been set on foot in the Bangalore City also.

84. The total number of plague attacks and deaths throughout the State was 3,031 and 2,135 respectively, the lowest figures recorded since the first outbreak of the epidemic. The district of Shimoga suffered most, with 808 attacks and 563 deaths.

85. The total expenditure incurred in connection with plague preventive measures in the State during the year was Rs. 1,04,965 approximately.

86. Speedy evacuation of infected areas was as usual encouraged by the grant of hutting materials and advances

of pay. In the case of Government servants drawing a pay of Rs. 10 and under, free supplies of shed materials were authorised.

87. Public health was generally good, but towards the end of the year cholera broke out in several taluks. The disease first made its appearance in the Shimoga District, and wrought considerable havoc there. Since then it has spread to Chitaldrug and even to Mysore. Latterly there has been a perceptible decrease in the number of cases, and with the sanitary precautions that are being adopted, there is every hope of the disease disappearing in a short time. As the usual sources of water-supply in villages are tanks or rivers which freely admit surface drainage, it is not easy in seasons of epidemics to prevent their contamination. It is claimed that what are called Abyssinian or Norton's tube wells will in suitable localities ensure a supply of water which cannot be contaminated. These wells are cheap, and the attention of Municipal and Local Boards has been invited to their use. Some tube wells have very recently been put down in Mandya Taluk, and the results are reported to be satisfactory. *Public Health.*

88. Regarding small-pox, I am glad to say that vaccination was more largely resorted to during the last year than was the case heretofore. The number of vaccinations performed was 94,245 against 70,395 in the previous year. A Regulation enabling Government to make provision for compulsory vaccination in areas to be specified by notification was passed during the year. This has been brought into force tentatively in the Bangalore City and in the Kolar Gold Fields Sanitary Circle.

89. The heaviest mortality however is from fevers and particularly from malarial fever. To enable all villagers to readily obtain quinine, arrangements have recently been made by which patels and shanbhogs of villages more than 4 miles distant from dispensaries will be supplied with 5 grain quinine packets to be sold at 2 pies per packet.

90. The total number of patients treated in all the hospitals and dispensaries of the State was 1,249,025 against 1,165,610 during the last year. The number of hospitals and dispensaries was 135, the same as in the last year. There were 99 midwives employed, the number of labour cases attended by them being 5,901. *Hospitals and Dispensaries.*

91. The total number of births recorded during the year was 95,543 as against 79,635 in the preceding year. The number of deaths was 81,495 as against 109,025. *Vital Statistics.*

Mining.

92. The year 1905-06 was notable in the mining history of Mysore in that attention was prominently attracted to manganese, chrome and other minerals which were located in several tracts during the operations of the Geological Survey made by the officers of the State. In all 38 prospecting licenses, 11 exploring licenses and 4 mining leases were granted during the year. Of these as many as 25 prospecting licenses and 4 exploring licenses were for manganese, chrome and magnesite. It is noteworthy that 11 out of the 25 prospecting licenses were issued to Native capitalists. Active operations in connection with manganese and chrome are going on in the districts of Shimoga and Tumkur. Corundum is also being worked to some extent. A few applications for mica and asbestos were received. A prospecting license for green quartzite was also issued. In connection with licenses for manganese and chrome, it may interest you to learn that Government have, on the application of one of the companies formed by Native capitalists, lent them the services of a Geological apprentice.

Gold Mining.

93. The gold industry continues to flourish, the output during the year being 595,291 oz. of an estimated value of £ 2,274,786 as against 611,737 oz. valued at £ 2,341,869 in 1904-05. The royalty due to the Government on the year's production is estimated at £ 113,736 against the sum of £ 117,093 realized in 1904-05.

94. In order to provide for the safety and well-being of the employees of mines and for preventing theft of and illicit traffic in mining materials including gold in various stages of extraction, a Regulation had been passed in 1897 known as the Mysore Mines Regulation. Being an enabling law, its local extent was stated to comprise the whole of Mysore, but certain sections imposing special restrictions on goldsmiths, etc., were applied only to a limited tract of country round the Gold Fields in the Bowringpet Taluk. Gold Mining operations on any large scale are not carried on anywhere in India except at the Kolar Gold Fields, and the legislation that was adopted in 1897 was necessarily tentative and experimental in character. The Regulation worked satisfactorily so far as it went, but it was found to be defective in that, as soon as a gold thief converted amalgam or sponge gold into bar gold, for which great facilities exist in and around the area, the Regulation became powerless to bring him to justice. The necessity for bringing 'unwrought gold' or bar gold within the purview of the Regulation thus forced itself on the notice of Government, and last year the draft of a new Regulation was

submitted to the Government of India. The sanction of the Government of India to the Regulation was received with certain modifications. With these modifications the new Regulation was recently promulgated, and the clauses which are specially restrictive have been brought into operation in the same limited area in which the corresponding provisions of the old Regulation were in force. As just explained, the principal change introduced is, that the presumption under the old Regulation, that property of the description peculiar to the mining industry when found in the possession of individuals in the mining area was illegally come by, until the contrary was proved, has been extended to unwrought gold. This is undoubtedly a material extension of the old law; but the necessity for it was, after careful consideration, accepted by His Highness' Government when undertaking the new legislation. In other countries where similar provisions for the repression of gold thefts exist, they have not, so far as Government are aware, been found to operate prejudicially on honest and law-abiding people, and there is no reason why they should do so here. It should also be remembered that the provisions of the old Regulation were never felt to be unduly harsh by the people of the area to which it extended. The local Magistracy and the District Superintendent of Police may be relied on to see that the provisions of the new Regulation in question are worked with due discrimination and care. I may assure you, at the same time, that if in actual working the new Regulation is found to be necessarily fraught with injury to the law-abiding population, a contingency which there is every reason to hope will not arise, then His Highness' Government will not be slow to do all that is necessary to suitably amend the law as experience might dictate.

95. The discovery of the minor minerals and the large number of applications received for them have brought to notice the necessity for making some changes in the rules regarding licenses and leases. The rules of 1904, although purporting to provide for all classes of minerals, were chiefly meant for gold, which was then the only metal sought for. Some changes in the rules and conditions have been introduced, and some more are under consideration. Quite recently a conference of persons interested in manganese and chrome was held, and Government were able to ascertain their views in respect of the changes that have become necessary. Revised terms and conditions in respect of licenses for these minerals will be announced very shortly.

Legislation.

96. In addition to the Regulation to provide for compulsory vaccination already referred to, Regulations to

amend the Military Regulation, the Merchandise Marks Regulation and the Land Revenue Code were passed during the last year. Since the commencement of the present official year, Regulations to amend the Excise Regulation and the Civil Procedure Code were passed, in addition to the Tramways Regulation, the Mines Regulation, and the Regulation further to amend the Land Revenue Code, to which I have already alluded. During the last year Rules under the Co-operative Societies Regulation were framed. New Rules under the Arms Regulation were also issued, under which among other things members of District Boards have been exempted from taking out licenses for the possession of fire-arms.

Judicial.

97. During the year there were several changes in regard to the jurisdiction of Courts. The Sub-Judge of Shimoga was invested with jurisdiction to try small cause suits up to Rs. 100 in value, the small cause jurisdiction of the Munsiff of Shimoga being at the same time withdrawn. The Sub-Judge was also invested with powers to dispose of applications under the Minors' Rules, applications under the Succession Certificate Regulation, and Insolvency applications under Chapter XX of the Civil Procedure Code: He was also made an Assistant Sessions Judge. The Sub-Judge of Bangalore was invested with power to dispose of applications under the Succession Certificate Regulation. The Sub-Judges of Hassan and Chikmagalur were empowered to entertain appeals direct from the decrees and orders of the Munsiff of Hole-Narsipur and Yedahalli respectively. With a view to afford relief to the District and Sessions Judge of Mysore, the Sub-Judge of Mysore was empowered to dispose of cases under the Land Acquisition Regulation and Insolvency applications. He was also made an Assistant Sessions Judge. The small cause jurisdiction of the Sub-Judge was extended to the Taluks of Yedatore and Heggaddevankote. There was a slight increase in civil litigation, the total number of original, regular and small cause suits filed being 19,408 against 18,254 during the previous year. The number of disposals was 18,716 against 18,637 in 1904-05. The total number of regular and second appeals filed was 1,199, and the number disposed of was 1,124 against 1,311 in the previous year.

Police.

98. There was an increase of 22 per cent in the number of offences reported and 12 per cent in those brought to trial.

99. The total number of cases dealt with by the Police during the year was 10,061; of these 5,655 cases were

disposed of during the year, leaving 4,406 cases pending with the Police and before the Courts. The percentage of convictions to the total number of disposals was 72·8 as against 74·3 last year. The percentage of property recovered to that lost was 35·8 as against 28·5.

100. The grades of Police Inspectors, Jamadars and Dafadars were revised during the year. The strength of the Regular Police Force on the last day of June 1906 was 888 officers and 5,116 men, being 8 officers and 8 men less than in the previous year. The decrease was due to the re-distribution and re-allocation of the Police Force in the Shimoga District, in connection with the Investigation Centre scheme introduced as a tentative measure into that District. The principal feature of this scheme is that no cases reported to the Police are to be investigated by an officer who is lower in rank than a Jamadar or draws a pay of less than Rs. 20.

Registration.

101. Owing to the subsidence of plague and the consequent improvement in trade, the total number of registrations rose from 59,989 to 74,174, or by nearly 24 per cent, and the receipts of the Department rose from Rs. 1,19,731 to Rs. 1,58,317 or by more than 32 per cent. The expenditure amounted to Rs. 87,509, which was about 56 per cent of the total receipts, leaving a net balance of Rs. 70,808.

Excise.

102. In the Excise Department the districts of Hassan and Chitaldrug were constituted into separate Excise Divisions under the charge of Excise Assistant Commissioners, so that now there is an Excise Assistant Commissioner for each district. The necessity for placing a check on the unrestricted sale of cocaine having been felt, this article was brought under the provisions of the Excise Regulation, and its possession and sale are now regulated by the issue of licenses.

103. Seventeen arrack shops and 153 toddy shops were closed during the year. The revenue from toddy was much higher than in the previous year, while in the case of arrack the fall in revenue was appreciable. The number of shops licensed to sell foreign liquor was also reduced from 68 to 56.

Archæological Department.

104. All the volumes of the Epigraphia Carnatica were finished, thus completing the publication of all the important inscriptions in the State. Mr. L. Rice, C.I.E., Director of Archæological Researches, retired at the end of the year after a long service of 35 years in the State.

Education.

105. The number of educational institutions in the State increased from 3,828 at the end of 1904-05 to 4,093

at the end of 1905-06, and their strength from 111,045 to 123,057. The percentages of boys and girls at school to those of school-going age rose from 22·7 and 4·3 to 25 and 4·9 respectively. On the representation of certain Members of this Assembly, the fees for private candidates for the Lower Secondary Examination in English were reduced from Rs. 10 to Rs. 7. Pupils belonging to the depressed castes, such as Naindas, Holeyas, Korachas, etc., have been permanently exempted from payment of school fees in the Taluk Vernacular schools, Branch schools, and Hobli schools. Rules were passed for the grant of the Damodar Dass Charity Scholarships for advanced Scientific Research and Technical Education, and these scholarships will be awarded from January 1907.

106. Female education continued to make progress. You will all have heard with pleasure of the success of two Hindu lady students from the Maharani's College at the last B. A. degree examination.

107. Government have availed themselves of the opportunity of Mr. Bhabha's going to Europe on furlough to depute him to study the system of what is known as Manual training in Europe and America, with a view to its introduction in Mysore.

Technical Education.

108. Technical and Industrial education made fairly good progress during the year. Additional grants for expenditure were sanctioned for the Industrial and the Engineering Schools in Mysore and the six other quasi-Government Industrial and Weaving Schools in the State. New monthly grants were also sanctioned in aid of the private Industrial Schools at Bagepalli and Srinivasapur. A new commercial school was opened by the Wesleyan Mission at Mysore, and Government sanctioned a lump sum grant of Rs. 900 for apparatus required for the school. The students of the Mysore Engineering School were authorised to be taken out by their teachers occasionally to important Engineering works in the State with a view to give them better practical training. Fourteen technical scholarships were granted to Mysore students for undergoing training in the technical and industrial institutions of Bombay and Madras.

109. A special grant of Rs. 300 was sanctioned by Government for starting a small demonstration farm in connection with the Anglo-Vernacular School at Dodballapur for teaching practical agriculture to the students. The Mahal Garden at Chitaldrug and a plot of ground

measuring 2 acres to the east of it were permitted to be leased out to the Superintendent of the Industrial School, on condition that the land would be used as a model garden and an experimental farm.

110. The appointment of two drawing masters was sanctioned to teach drawing in the Normal and High Schools at Kolar and Shimoga.

111. The Government had under consideration the question of how best to utilize the experimental silk farm at Bangalore started by the great philanthropist, the late Mr. J. N. Tata, with a view to improving the methods of sericulture. The first idea was to purchase the farm and manage it entirely by Government agency, but on further consideration, the Government came to the conclusion that the Farm would be better conducted by the present agency and on the present lines; and in order not to impose additional burden on the proprietors, and at the same time with a view to developing its practical side and making it a training ground for selected persons interested in sericulture, an annual grant of Rs. 3,000 has been sanctioned for the institution.

Muzrai.

112. Repairs to 64 Muzrai institutions were sanctioned at a cost of about Rs. 80,000, which included a State grant of Rs. 15,000. Annual cash grants for the support of four institutions were newly sanctioned, and the grants for four other institutions were increased, at a total cost of Rs. 1,962 per annum.

113. The allotment for feeding pilgrims in His Highness the Maharaja's chattram at Tirupati in the North Arcot District during certain festivals and for feeding Brahmins in His Highness' chattram at Mysore during the Dasara festival having been found insufficient, an increased grant of Rs. 1,500 per annum was sanctioned to each of these institutions.

114. The system of distributing cooked food in chattrams instead of raw rations has been revived. Certain changes were made in the location of chattrams in the Shimoga District as necessitated by the opening of the Railway, and the grants to the chattrams were revised in accordance with present requirements.

115. The succession to the High Priestships of the Sri Uttaradi and Sri Ahobala Matts was recognized by Government, and the endowments attached to the Ahobala Matt, which had been taken under Government management pending the election of a Guru, were restored to the Matt.

The Royal Visit.

116. I have reserved to the end the most important event of the year, the visit of Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales to Mysore in January last. The reception of the Royal Visitors was on a scale befitting the occasion, and the Khedda operations organized in connection therewith were pronounced on all hands to have been an unqualified success. To afford Their Royal Highnesses an opportunity to see the products of the arts and industries of Mysore and its resources, an Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition was held at Mysore. Their Royal Highnesses paid a visit to the Exhibition and evinced much interest in the exhibits. Further proof of His Royal Highness' interest in the arts and industries of the country, and of his solicitude for the welfare of the artizan was afforded in the speech he made on the occasion of his laying the foundation stone of the Chamarajendra Technical Institute at Mysore, when he expressed his "delight in taking part in a ceremony which might lead to the amelioration of one of the most deserving and most important classes of the Indian people." At Bangalore the Prince unveiled the statue raised to the memory of our late beloved Queen-Empress Victoria the Good.

117. It is unnecessary for me to enter further into the details of the Royal visit. I am sure that many of you had the privilege of seeing Their Royal Highnesses either at Mysore or Bangalore, and could not but have been impressed, in common with our brethren in other parts of the Empire, with the gracious manner of our august Visitors, and the genuine sympathy and solicitude for the welfare of the people, which marked all their utterances and their actions.

118. It is a source of sincere gratification to His Highness the Maharaja that, in welcoming the Royal Visitors, there have been such spontaneous demonstrations of joy and devotion from his subjects in all parts of the State. His Highness is personally sensible of the great privilege of having been the first of his House to welcome and entertain the Heir to the great British Empire, to which both the State and the Dynasty owe so much.

V. P. MADHAVA RAO,
Dewan of Mysore.